

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	VIRGINIA
COUNTY:	HALIFAX
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	CARTER'S TAVERN
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .5 mile northwest of northern tributary of Big Toby Creek, south side of Rt. 659, .5 mile west of intersection of Rt. 659 and Rt. 662.			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
(Paces vicinity)		Fifth (W. C. Daniel)	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
VIRGINIA	51	HALIFAX	083

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Exhibition</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Mrs. Robert H. Edmunds			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
405 Sunset Drive			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Greensboro		North Carolina	37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Halifax County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Halifax		Virginia	51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (see continuation sheet)			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Washington		D.C.	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA  
COUNTY: HALIFAX  
ENTRY NUMBER: 11  
DATE: 11  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ Excellent☐ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

☐ Altered☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carter's Tavern is set in a clearing just south of Halifax County's historic River Road. The building stood derelict and much decayed until 1972 when it was thoroughly restored by its present owner. As a result, much of the exterior fabric such as siding, roofing and chimneys had to be renewed, although the original interior woodwork, including flooring, wainscoting, mantels and stairs, is almost completely intact. The building had never suffered major alteration, thus any replaced fabric could be carefully matched to the original.

The tavern is in the Country-Federal style and has a two-story, double-pile, side-hall-plan main section and an earlier one-and-a-half-story wing on the west end. Two exterior end brick chimneys are on the east end while the wing has a single exterior end chimney. Both the main part and the wing are covered by gable roofs with simple box cornices. The wing is fronted by a shed-roof porch framed into its main roof. Beaded weatherboarding, copying the original, is used throughout except under the wing porch where flush siding is employed. The house is underpinned with rubble fieldstone.

The first-floor interior is divided into four main rooms and a stair hall. A secondary enclosed stair leading to the innkeeper's private quarters is located in the southwest room of the main section. The main, or public room, contains doors and wainscoting grained to imitate inlaid cabinet woods, as well as marbelized baseboards. The marbelized mantel is richly ornamented with reeded pilasters, bands and sunbursts. The remaining rooms in the first-floor's main section are similarly treated but are less ornate. In the wing is the "tap room" which has horizontal wooden sheathing on all its walls. The room's other distinctive features include the exposed ceiling joists and built-in cupboards. The main stairway is likewise sheathed in horizontal boarding. Its simple open-string staircase has a square newel, oval handrail and square balusters.

Above the main, or public room, is a room of equal size which also has handsomely grained and marbelized woodwork. Reeding is employed on the marbelized mantel but the sunbursts are omitted. Behind this room are the innkeeper's private quarters which are reached by the enclosed stair mentioned earlier. Above the wing is a single room formerly used as a sleeping loft.

Although modern conveniences such as heating, electricity and plumbing have been installed, special care was taken to preserve the building's historic character. At present the tavern is furnished with antiques and is used for special tours and meetings as well as a place for entertainment.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☒ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☒ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Long a familiar landmark on Halifax County's historic and scenic River Road, Carter's Tavern is a handsomely restored example of an early southern Virginia ordinary. With virtually all of its original interior fabric intact, the venerable frame building provides a rare picture of the character and arrangement of this once common Virginia institution. An outstanding feature of the tavern is the great quantity of well-preserved grained and marbelized woodwork, some of which is unusually ornate.

The building's earliest portion is the one-and-a-half-story wing, probably erected before 1773 by Joseph Dodson. Licenses issued in 1802 and 1804 indicate that Dodson's younger son, Joseph, Jr., operated an ordinary there in what was also his residence. In 1807 Dodson sold the building and 67 acres to Samuel Carter. Carter is believed to have enlarged the building to its present size by tearing down part of the Dodson house and erecting the two-story main section. In any case, the enlarged building enabled Carter to operate an overnight stage stop. The earliest recorded license issued to him, in 1821, authorized Carter to keep "a house of private entertainment" at his residence. His license was renewed in 1824, 1829, 1830, 1833, 1834, and 1835.

Following Carter's death in 1836 his wife, Elizabeth, took over operation of the establishment. As the River Road was a lap on the main stage road between New York and New Orleans, Carter's Tavern remained an important stopping place. "Betsy" Carter continued as proprietress of the tavern until her death in 1843, at which time it was permanently closed. In 1860 Samuel Carter's son, Philemon, sold the property to Dr. Thomas Haynie. The Haynie family owned it until 1898 when the building and 150 acres was sold to Mrs. Martha E. Reaves. After the Reaves family sold the property in 1941 it passed through various owners until 1972 when the derelict, decaying building was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Edmunds, of Halifax County and Greensboro, North Carolina. The Edmunds munificently undertook a thorough restoration of the building for no other reason than to preserve it. Handsomely furnished, Carter's Tavern is now made available for special tours and meetings.

CCL

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cook, Kenneth H. "Carter's Tavern Shines," The Record-Advertiser.  
South Boston, Va., Sept. 20-25, 1973.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36°	40'	30"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	79°	08'	05"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.51 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION

VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

DATE

July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Richmond,

STATE

VIRGINIA

CODE

51

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive  
Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks

Title Commission

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
HALIFAX	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

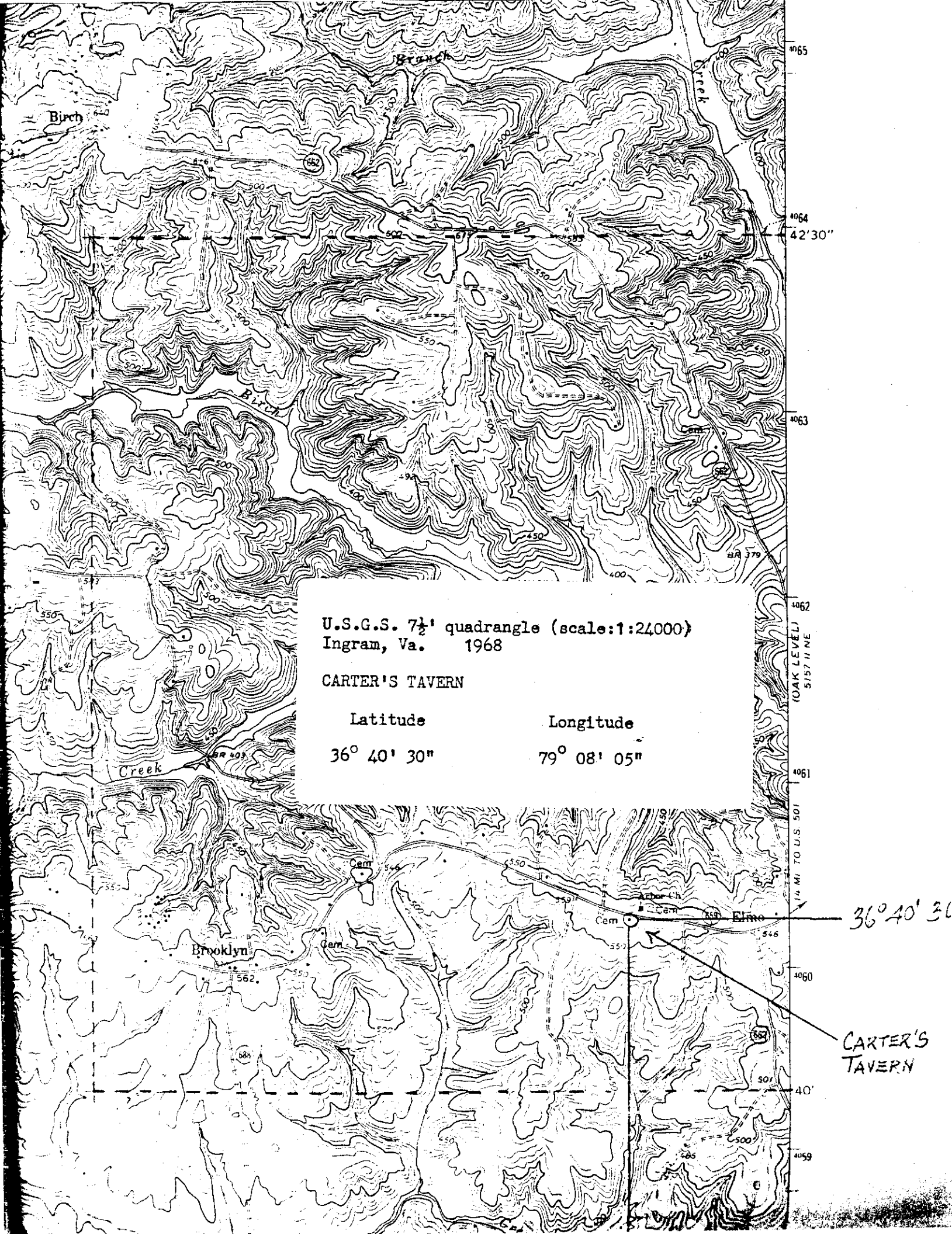
6.

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

1971

State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia (Code 51)



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Ingram, Va. 1968

CARTER'S TAVERN

Latitude	Longitude
36° 40' 30"	79° 08' 05"

(OAK LEVEL)  
5157 II NE

1/4 MI TO U.S. 501

36° 40' 30"

CARTER'S  
TAVERN